

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above referenced application in light of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Initially, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 12-14, 18-24, 29-31 and 35-39 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marshall (U.S. 5,774,878) in view of the article "Lotus 1-2-3 5.0 Linking Data To Geographic Maps" by Sandhill Publishing (hereinafter "Sandhill"). Applicant has deleted, without prejudice, claims 5-7, 22-24 and 35-39. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection with respect to the remaining claims.

Referring initially to independent claims 1 and 18, the Examiner contends that Marshall discloses receiving financial information and outputting a virtual reality world generated from the financial information that displays a hybrid of financial information and market geography. The Examiner further contends that, while Marshall does not disclose using a world map as a geographic map, Sandhill teaches linking worksheet data with geographic maps for displaying financial information for countries throughout the world. Based thereon, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to display financial information on a world map to produce a visual display that conveys user's information differently than a bar or a line chart.

Applicant respectfully submits that that the combination of Marshall and Sandhill do not teach providing simultaneous visual comparison between financial indicators of different countries, between financial sectors within the respective financial indicators and between the individual companies within each of the financial sectors, as is claimed. While Marshall discloses a visual representation of geographically-dispersed companies across various sectors for comparing company performance, that representation does not also provide a simultaneous visual representation of sector performance or index performance (where an index includes companies from various sectors) for comparing the performance of

different sectors or indexes. To make a sector comparison using Marshall either requires the user to mentally aggregate the visually represented performance of each company in the desired sectors or requires an entirely separate set of visual indicators (that are distinct from the company visual indicators) for representing sector performance that may be used for comparing the performance of various sectors.

In contrast, under the claimed invention, three layers of visual comparison – country index, financial sector and company performance – are simultaneously provided. For example, the specification, page 10 line 21 – page 11 line 9, describes a sector map that enables a simultaneous comparison between indices of two geographic regions (United States and Japan in the example provided), between particular financial sectors within each region and between the financial activity of particular companies within each financial sector. Neither Marshall nor Sandhill nor the combination of the two teach this. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 18 are distinguishable over the cited references and notice to the effect that these claims are in condition for immediate allowance is respectfully requested. Claims 2-4 and 19-21 depend from independent claims 1 and 18, respectively, and define further features and structure of the method. Accordingly these claims are patentable for the reasons noted above with respect to claims 1 and 18 as well for the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, notice to the effect that dependent claims 2-4 and 19-21 are in condition for immediate allowance is respectfully requested.

Next, the Examiner rejected claims 8-11, 15-17, 25-28, 31-33 and 40-45 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marshall in view of Sandhill and further in view of Datek Online supported by an article from PRNewsWire “Streamer Free Real-Time Stock Quote Service registers 12,000 Users” (hereinafter “Datek”). Applicant has deleted, without prejudice, claims 40-45. Applicant traverses the rejection with respect to the remaining claims. Furthermore, while on page 6 of the Office Action the

Application No. 09/678,902
Docket No. 6208-9

Examiner included claims 31-33 in this rejection, on page 8 of the Office Action the Examiner actually rejected claims 32-34. Thus, Applicant considers this rejection to be directed to claims 32-34.

Regarding claims 8-11 and 25-28 the Examiner contends that, while Marshall discloses a color display parameter to indicate companies making a profit or loss but does not disclose color associated with a change in percentage, Datek teaches the use of different colors to identify directional changes in profit and loss. Regarding claims 15-17 and 32-34, the Examiner contends that Datek discloses using numbers as indicators to show value of an investment.

Claims 8-11, 15-17, 25-28 and 32-34 depend from independent claims 1 and 18, respectively, and define further features and structure of the method. Accordingly these claims are patentable for the reasons noted above with respect to claims 1 and 18 as well for the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, notice to the effect that dependent claims 8-11, 15-17, 25-28 and 32-34 are in condition for immediate allowance is respectfully requested.

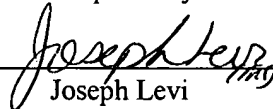
Applicant has made a diligent effort to place this application in better condition for appeal and/or condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application at an early date with a view towards issuing a favorable action thereon. If upon the review of the application, the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate notice of allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below with a view towards resolving the outstanding issues.

Application No. 09/678,902
Docket No. 6208-9

Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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